I. *A Relation of an Idiot at* Oſtend ; *with two other Chirurgical Caſes. By Mr.* Claud. Amijand, *in a Letter to* **Mr.** Wilſon : *Communicated by Mr.* de la Fage.

Ghent, January the 30th, *N. S.* 1708.

THIS now about five Weeks, ſince an Idiot from his Infancy died at *Oſtend*, the place of his Birth, in the 33d Year of his Age; his Death having been preceded with twelve Days continual remitting Fever, and a conſiderable Tumour and Pain about the Region of the Liver. His Brother, in whoſe Houſe he had been a conſtant Dweller, being deſirous to know the Cauſe of it, deſired Mr. *Ricks*, an Eminent Surgeon, (who at that time had the Cure of me) to open him; but as the Aperture was to be perform'd *gratis*, he put it off, and ſent his Son, likewiſe Maſter Surgeon of the ſame City, with his Servant; who did the Work in preſence of the Brother of the Deceaſed and a Nun, brought thither by the deſire of diſcovering the Cauſe of her Spitting or Vomiting of Blood, to which this Fellow had been very liable, (as well as to bloody Stoles) for ſix Weeks before his Death. A large Abceſs or Impoſthume was found in each Lobe of the Liver, whoſe Bulk did far exceed the ordinary Stint. The Brother was ſatisfied with this Diſcovery, and would have had the Surgeon to ſeek no further; but he was perſwaded, at the preſſing Sollicitations of the Nun, to let the Stomach be opened, which was found extreamly contracted and ponderous ; and indeed it was thought no Wonder, when upon

upon the aperture of it, was found a Bundle of the things following, cloſely involved and embraced by the Stomach, *viz.* Nine Cart-wheel Nails, and ſix leſſer; a large and long Iron Screw; two pair of Compaſſes, the the one having a Circle two Inches in Diameter; a middle-ſize Key; a large Iron Pin, as big as my Thumb, and 4 Inches long, with a Ring at the end on't; another of Braſs, but much leſs; the Handle of an Iron Spring-Knife, (ſwallow'd as 'tis believed intire, but the ſides and two pieces making up the Spring of it, found aſunder; the Pegs of the Knife, tying thoſe ſeveral pieces together, were not found;) the upper and lowermoſt end of a Braſs Pommel, inſervient to a Sea-coal Grate, weighing nine Ounces; a broad piece of Lead weighing three Ounces and a half: the whole conſiſting of 28 Pieces, weighing betwixt two and three Pounds. Some of theſe were loſt, and mightily ſought for by his Brother ſoon after the Siege of *Oſtend*, and the reſt at different Times ſince; they were found all in a Bundle with the largeſt Ends one way, and the ſmalleſt the other; the ſmall End of one of the large Nails was ſo bent, that it would have made a perfect Circle, had not the very tip of that ſame Nail been bent back again; this End was forked and wonderfully ſharp, as were likewiſe the Ends of the Compaſſes. None of the Pieces were found poliſh'd, neither cou'd I find the Braſs nor the Lead any ways impar'd or endamaged; but the Iron pieces were extreamly corroded, eſpecially one of the Sides of the Knife, which had lain in the Stomach about 8 Months, was eaten quite thro' in two or three places, towards the Blade's End; and three or four Nails mightily indamaged did appear as if ſome particular *Menſtruum* or Diſſolvent had been poured upon them, capable only to diſſolve that Metal, as *Aq. regalis* has the Property to diſſolve Gold, *Sp. Nitri* Silver, *Vinegar* Lead, leaving thoſe other Metals joyned and alienated with them un-

touch'd

touch'd: the Lead had lain in the Stomach about eight Months, and the Braſs Pin above-mentioned above twelve. It was very eaſy to gueſs at the time thoſe different pieces of Iron had been in the Stomach, in conſidering how much one piece had ſuffered more than the other. This Obſervation is like to give a check to the Notion of thoſe who believ'd that Oſtridges did diſſolve Braſs and Iron by Friction only; for if ſo, I ſee little reaſon why the Iron Branches of the Compaſſes ſhould have been found ſo very much worn out, and the Braſs Branches not in the leaſt impair'd. Mr. *Ricks*'s Son, who open'd him, told me, That the Stomach had been no ways wounded or indamag'd; which does not appear to me probable, when the Patient was known to have vomited and evacuated Blood by Stole for ſix Weeks before he dyed, as I have already mention'd. It could have been wiſh'd the Gullet and Guts had likewiſe been open'd; for 'tis plain, ſome of the Pieces had paſſed the *Pylorus*, as the Pegs of the Knife; and perhaps ſome ſmaller Pieces than thoſe that were found in the Stomach, might have been forc'd thither. It's neceſſary to remark, That this Fellow, from his Youth, had accuſtomed himſef to ſwallow large Morſels, Glutton like, and without Chewing; which, no doubt, made the Paſſage of the *Oeſophagus* wider, and diſpoſed it to give Entrance to all thoſe Extraneous Bodies. It may be alſo taken notice, That this Idiot, and ſometimes Mad Fellow, was never known to Seep a Wink, tho' he was often compell'd to go to Bed, and had, to incline him to Sleep, been very much harraſs'd and fatigu'd before: he was always known to eat three times as much as the reſt of Mankind, and when furious, to grow quiet upon the approach of Meat.

Mr. *Vandenheyde*, another famous Surgeon of *Oſtend*, did procure me the ſight of the largeſt Tumour I ever yet ſaw, which is the ſecond Caſe I have promiſed to deſcribe

ſcribe to you. This Tumour is of a Schirrous Nature, ſpringing from the Thigh-bone, ſomewhat tending to that of a Cancerous. It firſt took its riſe about two Years ago, in a Child of 10 Years Old, juſt above the *Patella*, without any evident cauſe, and hath, notwithſtanding all poſſible care, expanded it ſelf ſo, that it now occupies the whole Thigh to the very Groin, and has extended it to above a *Dutch* Yard in Circumference. As it encreaſes very much daily, it muſt ſoon exhauſt the Patient's Strength. The Surgeon intends to open him, and to make, after his Death, two Draughts, the one of the Tumour, and another of what he ſhall diſcover in the Diſſection; and has promiſed to ſend them both to me with a Relation, to get inſerted in Dr. *Ruyſch*'s Obſervations, with the former Account: If they keep their Word, I ſhall take care to have them communicated to you in time.

Whilſt I am upon theſe odd Caſes, I can't but take notice of a very remarkable Fracture of the Skull, we had laſt Campaign in our Hoſpital here; it was in the interior part of the *Squamoſe* Bone, and occaſioned by a Splinter of a Fellow Soldier's Piece burſting, that ſtruck him there. Some time had paſs'd, before the Accidents made us ſuſpect a Fracture, and obliged us to make a Triangular Inciſion upon the Temporal Muſcle; a Fiſſure was diſcover'd, which indicated the Neceſſity of the Trepan. It was apply'd twice, the firſt not making room ſufficient to extract a large piece of the internal Table very much depreſſed. After this all the Accidents diſappear'd; but twelve Days after the Operation, Rigors, cold Sweats, an intermitting Pulſe, and ſome other Signs of an approaching Death, did make us deſpair of the Recovery of our Patient. He died the 15th from the Operation, and about the 20th from his Wound. His Skull was open'd, and in it three very remarkable Fiſſures obſerved. The firſt had, notwithſtanding the

Sagital Suture, croſs'd from one Parietal-Bone to the other, as far as the Coronal Suture on that ſide oppoſite to the Wound; another had gone croſs the Coronal Bone; and the third was on the Parietal Bone on the ſide of the Wound, pretty near the *Sutura Squamoſa*; but what is moſt ſingular, is that none of theſe Fiſſures did reach that, upon which the Trepan had been apply-ed. An *Empyema* was found in the *Thorax*, and a conſiderable Impoſthume in the Liver.

II. *Jo. Keill ex Æde Chriſti Oxonienſis, A. M. Epiſtola ad Clariſſimum Virum Edmundum Halleium Geometriæ Profeſſorem Savilianum, de Legibus Virium Centripetarum.*

HAUD oblitus es, uti arbitror, Vir Clariſſime, te cum nuper eſſes Oxonii, Theorema, quo Lex vis centripetæ, *Quantitatibus finitis* exhiberi poſſit, mecum communicaſſe: Quod Theorema tibi monſtravit Egregius Mathematicus D. Abrahamus De Moivre, Dixitque Dominum Iſaacum Newtonum, Theorema huic ſimile prius Inveniſſe. Cum autem ejus demonſtratio perfacilis ſit, Eam, itemque alia de eadem re cogitata, non poſſum tibi non impertire. Etſi minime dubitem, quin, ſi idem argumentum pertractare libuiſſet, tu acerrimo quo polles ingenij acumine, rem omnem penitus exhauſiſſe potuiſſes.

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